

Alton Literary
Society.

1837-1838.

Given by Mr E. P. Wade

Alton Literary Society

MS. G.

Committee -

Security requested
at next meeting

Question Committee
meeting of two, namely,

W. Only men added

next Friday Ev.
Geo L. Ward Sec -

4.
Pursuant to notice, the "Alton Literary Society" met
Nov. 17. 1837, for the purpose of reorganizing said
Society. John W. Kram Esq., the preceding President,
took the Chair, and called the meeting to order.

On Motion of J. W. Buffum Esq., a committee of three,
was appointed by the Chair, for the purpose of
drafting a Constitution and By-Laws for the Society.
The following gentlemen were appointed -

J. W. Buffum }
J. R. Bullock } Committee -
Effingham Cook }

On Motion of G. W. Only Esq., the Society requested
J. W. Kram Esq. to deliver a Lecture at next meeting.

On Motion of Effingham Cook, a Question Committee
was appointed by the Chair consisting of two, namely,
B. H. Cant & J. More Jr.

On Motion J. R. Bullock and G. W. Only were added
to the Question Committee -

The Society then adjourned to next Friday Ev.
Geo L Ward Secy -

6

The Society met Friday, Nov. 24th, according to adjournment.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

The Committee appointed for the purpose of drafting a Constitution and Bye Laws, reported, which report was accepted.

On Motion, the Society considered each article separately and adopted them without amendment. (See 2nd Page)

On Motion, the Society adopted the Bye Laws as reported by the Committee without amendment. (See 10th Page)

The Question Committee reported the following question for discussion at the next meeting - Is it good policy to issue scrip, or effect loans, for the purposes of improvements in this City?

The Society then proceeded to the choice of officers and Committees as follows

John W. Buffum	was chosen President
Effingham Cook	Vice President
George McBride	Treasurer
George S. Ward	Secretary

John M. Krum	Committee of Ways & Means
Stephen Briggs	
Saml H. Kennedy	

J. R. Bullock	Essay Committee
G. M. Okey	

W. R. Hart	Lecture Committee
M. A. Keef	
S. W. Robbins	

Constitution

Article First.

This Institution shall be known by the name of the "Alton Literary Society."

Art. 2nd The object of this Society shall be the intellectual and moral improvement of its members.

Art. 3rd The officers of this Society shall consist of a Pres^t, Vice Pres^t, and Treasurer, and Sec^y: all of whom shall be chosen by ballot, and shall hold their offices for the term of one year and until others are elected. A majority of those present being necessary for a choice.

Art. 4th It shall be the duty of the Pres^t to preside at all meetings of the Society.

Art. 5th In the absence of the Pres^t the duties of the Office shall devolve on the Vice Pres^t.

Art. 6th The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all funds belonging to the Society, and shall keep a true acc^t of all monies received and disbursed and report when called upon by the Society.

Article 7th
It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of all the proceedings of the Society and to perform all other duties usually devolving on that office.

Article 8th
The members of the late "Alton Literary Society" who shall sign this Constitution within two weeks after its adoption are hereby declared members of this Society. Any other ~~persons~~ ^{person} wishing to become a member shall express a desire either by letter or through a member, and at the next regular meeting after such request is made, upon receiving the votes of two thirds of the members present, and upon signing this Constitution and paying to the Treasurer the sum of Three Dollars, shall become a member.

Article 9th
No person not a member of the Society shall be present at any election provided for by this Constitution.

Article 10th
Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article 11th
This Constitution shall not be altered or amended except by the concurrence of three fourths of the members present and any resolution to alter or amend shall be on the table at least two weeks.

Dye Laws

Art. 1st
The regular meetings shall be held every Friday evening except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

Art. 2nd
Special meetings may be called by the President whenever requested by the interests of the Society.

Art. 3rd
At the first regular meeting of the Society and once in three months thereafter there shall be elected by the Society the following Standing Committees (to wit) Committee of Ways & Means, Committee on Essays, Lecture Committee and Question Committee.

Art. 4th
The Committee of Ways & Means shall consist of three, whose duty it shall be to procure fuel, lights, Stationary, and otherwise provide for the wants of the Society, and who may draw upon the Treasurer for the amount of their expenditures.

Art. 5th
The Committee on Essays shall consist of two whose duty it shall be to receive all communications intended to be read before the Society, and at the next meeting thereafter to read such of them as in their opinion may promote the object of this Institution and to make such comments or criticisms thereon as to them may seem proper.

Art. 6th
The Lecture Committee shall consist of three whose duty it shall be to procure a lecture for each regular meeting of the Society.

Art. 7th The Question Committee shall consist of three whose duty it shall be, at the first regular meeting of the Society, and every three months thereafter, to report twelve questions to be discussed successively at each regular meeting, which questions when adopted by the Society shall be recorded. No other question shall be substituted at any regular meeting except by consent of two thirds members present. Special meetings may be held for the discussion of any other question by a vote of a majority.

Art. 8th ^{also} It shall be the duty of the Question Committee to select four disputants on each question (to wit) two on each side, and report their names to the President at least two weeks before the discussion of their respective questions. Provided always that until every member of the Society is selected to debate no one individual shall be chosen a second time.

Art. 9th The Sec^y at each meeting shall announce the question to be discussed with the names of the disputants for the succeeding meeting.

Art. 10th All questions of order shall be decided by the Chair Subject to an appeal to the Society.

Art. 11th No member shall speak more than twice in any debate or occupy more than twenty minutes each time except by permission of the house.

Art. 12th No member in Debate shall speak indecorously or indulge in ~~indulge~~ in personal remarks towards any other member.

Art. 13th All resolutions submitted to the Society shall if required by any member be reduced to writing.

The Following shall constitute the order of Exercises at every regular Meeting.

- 1st Call the Roll ^{voice}
- 2^d Read Minutes of preceding Meeting
- 3^d Receive Reports of Committees
- 4th Hear Motions and Receive Resolutions
- 5th Election of New Members
- 6th ~~Reading of Papers~~ Lecture
- 7th Reading of Papers
- 8th Debate
- 9th Announcement of question & Disputants
- 10th Adjournment

Article 14th

Any Motion to amend or repeal these By Laws shall be reduced to writing and be on the table at least one week.

Names of Members

John W. Sum
 Geo. W. Olney
 John Webster Chickering
 A. H. Alexander
 Joseph Greeley
 Laurence C. Robbins
 W. C. Cook
 J. B. Talbot
 J. W. Buffum
 G. L. Ward
 James Murphy Jr
 Isaac Veeritt
 L. Briggs
 J. E. Clements
 J. W. Kennedy
 B. N. Hall
 Geo. Watson
 Effingham Cook
 Caleb Stone

The above ^{names} are true copy from
 the original signatures to the Mass.
 Constitution

Imp. Note

Samuel Davis
 Isaac Harbert Jr
 Chas. L. Frost
 G. Heaton

M. Andrew Peck
 Alfred Stevens
 John Atwood
 Moses G. Howard
 Branning H. Cart
 John S. Clark
 J. P. Walworth
 Nelson G. Edwards
 O. M. Adams
 Geo E Arnold

The Society met in accordance with the Constitution
 Friday Ev. Dec 8th.

The proceedings of the previous meeting were read and
 accepted.

The Essay Committee reported that they had received
 no communications.

The Lecture Committee reported, and their report being
 accepted, the Society adopted the following questions
 for discussion at their succeeding meeting of the Society.
 Part -

- 1st. Ought imprisonment for debt to be abolished?
- 2nd. Whose character is calculated to ~~excite~~
to excite the most admiration Washington or Bonaparte?
- 3rd. Ought Capital punishment to be abolished?
- 4th. Would it be expedient to extend the elective
franchise, and participation in the affairs of
government to the female sex?
- 5th. Ought Congress to charter a National Bank?
- 6th. Ought the rate of interest to be regulated by
law?
- 8th. Is the reading of fictitious works advantageous?
- 9th. Ought laws to be passed regulating the moral and
intellectual education & physical exertions of the laborers
in large manufacturing establishments?
- 10th. Should our Manufactures be protected by Tariff?

11th Capt Congress to have accepted the decisions of the
16th of the Netherlands, ^{concerning the North Eastern boundary} and if not, should they not take
timely and speedy measures for the settlement of the
Question?

12th Is the "Internal improvement bill" of Illinois passed
in eighteen hundred and thirty seven, a good one?

There was no report from the Section Committee,
the Chairman being absent.
The following gentlemen, who were proposed for admission
to the Society at the last meeting, were admitted,
namely, M. A. Neef, Edward Keating, M. B. Atwood,
J. Atwood & Jas. F. Walworth.

The following amendment to the "Bye Laws" which was
laid on the table at the previous meeting was passed.
"Discussions of questions shall always be had in a
Committee of the whole."

The following question was proclaimed by the Chairman
as the question on order for discussion at the next meeting.
Capt imprisonment for debt to be abolished? Deputants -
John M. Room Esq in the affirmative, and J. R. Bullock
in the negative.

Alfred Stevens & Thos. S. Fay were proposed for members-
-ship.

In consequence of there being but few persons present,
the Section was postponed until the next meeting.

The Society then went into a Committee of the whole,
for the discussion of the appointed question.

John M. Room opened the question in the affirmative, and
was followed by Ed. Keating in the negative.
The question was decided in the affirmative Adjourned.

G. S. Ward Secy.

The Society met Friday, Aug. 15th in accordance with
the Constitution. The minutes of the previous meeting
were read and accepted - after which the standing
Committee reported as follows - The Essay Committee
reported that they had ~~no~~ ^{no} communication.
The Section Committee reported that Sections had
been secured for several succeeding meetings.
The District Committee reported the following questions,
and disputants ~~for~~ for the two succeeding meetings.
1st Whose Character is calculated to excite the most admiration,
Washington or Bonaparte? Disputants - G. M. Only in the affir-
-mative - and Alfred Stevens in the negative.

2d Capt Capital Punishment - to be abolished? Disputants -
J. B. Murdoch affirmative & J. Webster, Chickering &
the negative -
Alfred Stevens & Thos. S. Fay, were admitted as members
of the Society, having been previously proposed.

A Section was then delivered by Ed. Keating, Esq. "on
the former and present condition of the Am. Aborig-
-ines" which was listened to with attention by the meeting.

The Society then went into a Committee of the whole, ^{as Mr. Kennedy is the Chair} for
the discussion of the proposed question, which was
opened by John M. Room Esq. in the affirmative and
J. R. Bullock in the negative - After a spirited discussion,
in which several members engaged, the Committee rose
and reported that the question had been decided in
the affirmative, which report was accepted by the Society.

The Society then adjourned.

G. S. Ward Secy.

The Society met Friday evening Dec 22, 1837.
in accordance with the constitution.

The Minutes of the preceding meeting were
read and approved.

The Essay Committee reported that they
had no communications to read.

The Lectures ^{committee} reported that Mr R. Bullock
would deliver a lecture at the next meeting.

The Questions Committee reported the
following questions for discussion at the meet-
ing to be held two weeks hence. "Would it be
expedient to extend the elective franchise and
participation in the affairs of government to
the female sex." Disputants Mr J. Utwood
and Dr Cart in the affirmative and
Mr W. Buffum and S. H. Kennedy in the
negative.

The following Gentlemen were proposed
as members of this Society.

Daniel T. Randall,

O. M. Adams. (O M Adams)

Joseph Bonmeister.

Mr Chickering offered the following re-
solution.

"Resolved" that the Constitution be so
amended as to leave the disputants at
liberty to substitute any questions they
may agree upon, in place of the regular
questions appointed.

The Society then went into a committee
of the whole J. Moore put in the chair for
the discussion of the question appointed

for this evening "Whose Character is calcu-
lated to excite the most admiration Washington
or Bonaparte". Which after a lengthy
and spirited discussion was decided
in the Affirmative by the casting vote
of the Chair.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

William C. Cook,

Secretary pro tem

The regular meeting of the Society was held on
Friday Ev. Dec 28, 1837 in accordance with the
Constitution - The President being absent the Vice President
took the chair and called the meeting to order - The
minutes of the previous meeting were read & approved.

The Lectures Committee reported, that Doct. J. Keaton
will deliver a Lecture at the next meeting.

The Essay & Questions Committees made no report -

The following resolution was offered by S. H. Kennedy -
Resolved - That the eight articles of the Constitution be
so amended, as to have the admission fee, of each
new member but Two dollars.

The following persons having been proposed for mem-
bership at the last meeting were admitted as mem-
bers of the Society - namely - Daniel T. Randall - O. M.
Adams - Joseph Bonmeister -

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership
namely - A. F. Lindu - Mr R. Horton - Benj. Claffa for

a Lecture was delivered by J. R. Bullock Esq. which was listened to with attention by the Society - The Society then went into a committee of the whole, Doct. Keaton in the Chair, to discuss the following question - "Ought Capital punishment to be abolished?" After a spirited debate in which several members engaged, the Committee arose, and reported that the question had been decided in the affirmative, which report was accepted. The Society then adjourned.

G. S. Ward Secy

The Society met at the Lyceum hall, on Friday Ev. Jan. 12. The President took the chair and called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

There was no report from any of the Standing Committees. U. F. Linder, William R. Horton and Benj. Clifford for having been proposed for membership at a previous meeting were admitted as members.

Mr. Geo. B. Arnold was proposed for membership - An Essay was then read by Mr. Alfred Stevens.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Effingham Cook Resolved - That any persons present ^{at this meeting} who are not members of the Society, and wish to participate in the debate have the privilege of speaking -

The Society then went into a committee of the whole, Dr. Geo. Keaton in the chair, to discuss the following question: "Would it be expedient to extend the elective franchise and participating in the affairs of government to the female sex?"

After a very lively and animating debate, the Committee arose and reported that the question had been discussed; which report was accepted - A vote was then taken upon the final decision of the question, which was given in the negative.

The two following questions and disputants were announced by the Secretary for discussion at the two succeeding meetings - to-wit - 1st "Ought Congress to charter a national Bank?" Edward Keating Esq. and Stephen Briggs Esq. on the affirmative - J. R. Bullock & J. M. Brown Esq. on the negative - 2d "Ought the rate of interest to be regulated by law?" Mr. E. Cook & M. A. Neef on the affirmative; Effingham Cook & Chas. S. Frost on the negative.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

G. S. Ward Secy.

A Special meeting of the Society was held on Monday Ev. Jan. 22. The President took the chair and called the meeting to order; after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

It being in order, the Lecture Committee reported that the Hon. Cyrus Edwards, will deliver a lecture at the next meeting - There was no report from the other Standing Committees.

Mr. Geo. B. Arnold, having been propounded for admission, was admitted as a member of the Society. Mr. Nelson Edwards, was proposed for admission to the Society.

A Lecture was delivered by Doct Geo H Eaton, upon Physiognomy, which was listened to with attention by the meeting.

The Society then went into a Committee of the whole, W F Lender Esq in the chair, to discuss the appointed question, which was as follows "Ought Congress to charter a National Bank?" The question was opened by Stephen Briggs Esq, on the Affirmative, and while upon the floor, he was called to order by a member for reading from a public journal - whereupon Edward Hastings Esq, moved that the rule of the Society be suspended for the time, and Mr Briggs be permitted to read, which was agreed too - Mr B. then proceeded and was followed by Mr. Krum Esq on the negative.

After a spirited debate, in which several members engaged, the Committee rose and reported that the question had been discussed, which report was accepted.

The question was then decided by a vote of the Society in the affirmative.

The following question and disputants thereon, were announced by the Secretary for discussion at the second succeeding meeting - "Is the reading of fictitious works advantageous?" W F Lender & J Moses Jr Esq on the affirmative Doct. R N Hunt & G S Ward on the negative.

On Motion, the Society adjourned

G S Ward Sec.

The Society met Friday Jan. 26. - The President took the chair and called the meeting to order - The minutes of the previous meeting were ~~to~~ read and approved. The Lecture reported that Mr. Alfred Stevens will deliver a Lecture at the next meeting - No report from the other standing committees.

On motion, a Committee of two were appointed by the chair to wait on the Treasurer and get his report - The following persons were accordingly appointed - M. A. Neff & G S Ward. Mr. Nelson Edwards was admitted as member of the Society.

A very eloquent and interesting Lecture was then delivered by the Hon. Cyrus Edwards, upon the "impotence and advantages of common schools" which was listened to with interest and attention by the Society.

The Society went into a Committee of the whole (J R Ballock Esq in the chair) to discuss the following question - "Ought the rate of interest to be regulated by law?" The question was opened by Mr E. Cook in the affirmative and Effingham Cook in the negative. They were followed by several gentlemen on the affirmative and negative and after a spirited and lengthy debate, the Committee rose and reported that the question had been discussed, which report was accepted - A final vote was then taken upon the merits of the question, which was decided in the negative.

John S. Clark was proposed for admission to this Society. The following question and disputants were announced by the Secretary for discussion at the second succeeding meeting - "Ought laws to be passed, regulating the moral & intellectual education and physical exertions of the laborers in large manufacturing establishments?" Disputants ~~for~~ Louisa Robins & Caleb Stone on the affirmative Doct Geo H Eaton & Joseph Emery on the negative. On Motion, the Society adjourned.

G S Ward Sec.

The Society met on Friday the Feb. 2, in accordance with the Constitution - The President took the chair and called the meeting to order - The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Lecture Committee reported that Mr. Alfred Stevens will deliver a Lecture at the next meeting, which will be a continuation of his Lecture for this evening -

The Committee appointed to wait on the Treasurer and get his report - obtained a report, which was submitted to the Society and approved of - The report reads as follows

Report of the Treasurer of the Alton Literary Society -

1836

Dec 3 By Cash recd of 26 Members of the Society for their initiation fee - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ each \$ 39.00

1837

Dec 16 Cash for S. W. Kennedy by order of Committee of Ways & Means 5.00
\$ 21.00

Respectfully Submitted

Alton Feb. 2. 1838

W. M. Bridge Treasurer

On Motion, of the Secretary - The Committee of Ways & Means were instructed to employ the Sexton of the Episcopal Church, to clean this room weekly - make fires and procure lights for the Society

John S. Clark was admitted as a member of the Society

The Society then went into a committee of the whole (Effingham Cock Esq in the chair) to discuss the following question - "Is the reading of fictitious works advantageous?"

A Lecture was delivered by Mr. Alfred Stevens upon the "Philosophy of Man" which was listened to with attention by the meeting

The Society then went into a committee of the whole, (Effingham Cock Esq in the chair) to discuss the appointed question which reads as follows "Is the reading of fictitious works advantageous?" The question was opened by A. F. Linder Esq in the affirmative, and Geo. L. Wana in the negative. After a spirited debate ~~the~~ ^{which} several members engaged, the Committee rose and reported that the question had been discussed, which report was accepted - A final vote was then taken, ~~which~~ ^{and} the question decided in the affirmative. On Motion, of Effingham Cock, the question which was selected for debate at the next meeting, was rejected, and the following one substituted - "Is a Lie ever justifiable?" Disputants - Messrs. L. Robbins & C. Stone, on the affirmative and Doct. G. Heaton and Joseph Greely Esq on the negative

The following question and disputants, were announced by the Sec. for discussion at the second succeeding meeting, namely, "Should our manufactures be protected by a Tariff?" S. E. Clement & A. F. Linder Esq on the affirmative & Doct. G. H. Hart and Com. Isaac Hart on the negative

On Motion, the Society adjourned

Geo. L. Wana Sec.

The Society met Friday Ev. Feb. 9. 1838. in accordance with the Constitution. The President took the chair and called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. It being in order, The Lectur Committee reported that Mr. M. G. Atwood will deliver a lecture at the next meeting. No reports from the other standing committees.

The following Resolution was laid on the table by Mr. Alfred Sterens - Resolved - That if those persons appointed on the debate, do not appear and take their respective parts, or tender a sufficient excuse, they shall be fined the sum of fifty cents.

A Lecture was then delivered by Mr. Alfred Sterens, upon the "philosophy of man" which was a continuation of his lecture at the preceding meeting. The Lecture was interesting, and listened too with much interest by the meeting.

The Society then went into a committee of the whole. (Mr. G. Atwood Esq. in the chair) to discuss the following Question - Is a Lie ever justifiable? - The question was opened by Mr. S. Robbins on the affirmative, and Doct. G. Weston on the negative. Several members engaged in the debate, and after a lengthy discussion, the Committee rose and reported that the question had been discussed, which report was accepted. A vote ~~was~~ then taken upon the merits of the question, which was decided in the negative. The following question and disputants for the second succeeding meeting, were announced by the Secretary - "Should officers of Steamboats be made responsible for accidents occurring through their carelessness?" - Disputants - Messrs. G. B. Arnold and J. S. Noble on the affirmative & Messrs. Nelson Edwards & Saml. Aris on the negative.

The President stated, that in consequence of a question of order that arose respecting the Parliamentary rule of reporting a question, which had been discussed in a committee of the whole; two members of the Society had written the Hon. John Quincy Adams, to get his opinion upon the question, or the rule adopted in Congress, to which an answer had been received - Upon motion of a member, the letter was read by Q. M. Krum Esq., he being one of the members to whom it was addressed. On motion, the Society adjourned.

George W. Ward Sec.

The regular meeting of Society was held on Friday evening February 16th 1838 in accordance with the Constitution. The President being absent, the Vice President took the chair & called the meeting to order. William R. Horton was then chosen Secretary pro tem, the Secretary of the Society being absent. The minutes of the previous meeting were then read and approved. No reports were received from either of the committees.

The following Resolution that had been laid upon the table at a previous meeting, was then taken up & passed viz - Resolved, That if those persons appointed on the debate, do not appear & take their respective parts, or tender

a sufficient excuse, they shall be
fined the sum of fifty cents —

On motion of Mr. Steves, it was then
voted "That the President & Secretary
of the Society have power to collect
those fines that are incurred under
the preceding resolution —"

The following Gentlemen were proposed
for admission to the Society - viz
D. T. Brigham, H. S. Lincoln & Dr. Brooks.

A Lecture was then delivered
by Mr. G. Atwood Esq. ~~on~~ subject
"A progressive comparison between
ancient & modern arts & sciences."

The Lecture was interesting & listened
to with attention by the meeting —

The Society then went into a
committee of the whole (Mr. Alfred
Stevens in the chair) to discuss
the following question, "Should our
Manufactures be protected by a
Tariff?" — The question was

opened by Samuel E. Clements Esq.
in the affirmative, & Mr. G. B. Amos
in the negative — After a spirited

discussion the committee rose & reported
"That the question had been discussed."

A final vote was then taken &
the question was decided in the
affirmative —

It was then voted "That the
question selected for discussion at
the next meeting, be dispensed with."

and the following was then substituted
"Was the passage of the Internal Im-
provement Bill of Illinois, expedient?" Disputants - Wm. Adams
& J. S. Noble, in the affirmative, &
Nelson Edwards & James Davis in the negative.

On motion, the Society then adjourned
Wm. R. Horton -
Secy pro tem

The Society met Friday Evening February 28 1838 in
accordance with the Constitution.

The President took the Chair and called
the meeting to order. The Secretary being absent,
D. H. Kennedy was chosen Sec' pro tem.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were
then read and approved.

The Lecture Committee reported that James H. Hall Esq.
would deliver a Lecture on this evening, and that Rev.
Chas. A. Farley would deliver a Lecture at the next meeting.

The Question Committee requested leave
to report after the Lecture — No report received
from the other Committees —

A motion was made by S. E. Clements Esq.
that persons not members of the Society be admitted
to enter into the discussion of the Question this evening
which motion was adopted —

The following motion was made by D. H. Kennedy
and adopted by the Society - viz "That the Secretary
of this Society be requested to make out a list of
those new members who have not paid their admission
fees, and hand said list to the Treasurer of the Society
and authorize him to collect said fees —"

The following persons regularly proposed were admitted as members of this Society

D. T. Brigham
W. S. Lincoln
Dr. Brooks

A Lecture was delivered by James Hall Esq. which was listened to with much attention

The Question Committee then reported the following Questions to be discussed at the succeeding meetings

1. Should a pardoning power be given to either of the departments of Government?

2. Were the first Settlers of this Country justified in their Wars upon the Aborigines?

3. Does the present aspect of our affairs seem to indicate a perpetuity of our present form of Government?

4. Is party spirit favorable to freedom?

5. Are early marriages desirable, and their influence on Society salutary?

The following disputants were announced for the discussion of the following Question at the next regular meeting

Should a pardoning power be given to either of the departments of Government?

Disputants. J. W. Buffum Esq. Affirmative
J. W. B. Horton }
D. Brigham Esq. } Negative
M. Bomerleu }

The Society then went into Committee of the Whole Dr. Geo. Heaton in the Chair, for the discussion of the following Question. "Was the passage of the Internal Improvement Bill of Illinois passed in 1837 Expedient?"

The Discussion was opened by O. M. Adams in the Affirmative and Nelson Edwards in the Negative, after an animated & interesting discussion the Committee rose and reported progress

A final Vote was then taken by the Society and the Question decided in the affirmative

On Motion of E. Cook Esq. the Society then adjourned

Saml H. Kennedy
Sec. pro tem

The Society met on Friday Evening, March 2. 1838 in accordance with the Constitution - The President took the Chair and called the meeting to order - The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. It being in order, the Lecture Committee reported, that Rev. Chas. A. Parker was prevented by indisposition from Lecturing this evening. No report from the Standing Comtee. A member gave notice, that Mr Alfred Stevens had prepared an Essay, which, upon motion he was requested to read

The Society then went into a Committee of the whole (S. H. Kennedy in the Chair), to discuss the following question "Should a pardoning power be given to either of the departments of Government?" - The question was opened by Mr J. W. Buffum on the affirmative and David T. Brigham Esq. on the negative. After a debate in which several

Members engaged, the committee rose and reported that the question had been discussed, which report was accepted - A vote was then taken upon the merits of the question, and decided in the negative.

The two following questions and disputants, were announced by the Secretary for discussion at two succeeding meetings.

1st. "Were the first settlers of this country, justifiable in their wars upon the aborigines?" Disputants J. W. Chickering Esq. & Dr. Brooks in the affirmative - Benjamin Clifford Esq. & Edward Keating Esq. in the negative.

2d. "Does the present aspect of our affairs seem to indicate a perpetuity of our present form of government?" Disputants Miss J. R. Bullock & M. G. Atwood in the affirmative and Miss J. W. Buffum & A. Stearns in the negative.

On motion, the Society adjourned. *L. S. Ward Sec.*

The Society met on Friday Eve. March 9. 1838. The President being absent, the Vice President took the Chair and called the meeting - The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The Lecture committee reported that there would be no Lecture at the next meeting, but one two weeks hence - The Society then went into a committee of the whole, to discuss the following question (William E. Cook in the chair) "Were the first settlers of this country, justifiable in their wars upon the aborigines?" After a short debate the committee rose and reported, that the above question had been discussed, which report was accepted - A vote was then taken upon the merits of the question, which was given

in the negative.

The following question was announced by the Sec. for discussion at the next meeting - "Does the present aspect of our affairs seem to indicate a perpetuity of our present form of government?" Disputants Miss J. R. Bullock & M. G. Atwood on the affirmative and Miss J. W. Buffum and ~~A. Stearns~~ *A. Stearns* on the negative. On motion, the Society adjourned.

L. S. Ward Sec.

The Society met Friday Evening March 16. 1838 in accordance with adjournment. - The President took the Chair and called the meeting. to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The following Resolution was offered by Mr. A. Stearns. Resolved - That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet Friday Evening Oct. 12th 1838.

The Society then went into a committee of the whole (Isaac Scarrett in the chair) to discuss the following question "Were the first settlers of this country justifiable in their wars upon the Aborigines?" The Question was opened by J. W. Buffum in the affirmative, and after a spirited debate in which several members engaged the committee rose and reported that the above question had been discussed, which report was accepted. A vote was then taken upon the merits of the question, which was given in the affirmative. The Society then adjourned.

L. S. Ward

The society met pursuant to adjournment Oct-26th 1838. The president took the chair and called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The society then proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year ~~when~~ ~~E. Lock~~ was chosen. Pres^t J. M. Kinn Edg. V. P. Nelson G. Edwards Sec^t and J. H. Kennedy Treasurer. On motion J. M. Buffum a committee of three were appointed to nominate persons as members of the several standing committees which committee having retired, returned reported the following persons as members of said committees.

Com. Ways & Means	{	Lawson Robbins	Edway Com ^t
		J. Greely	Alfred Stevens
		J. I. Clark	W. A. Knuff

Lecture com ^t	{	Question Committee	
		Geo J Ward	
		Edwards Keating	

Mr E. Lock Edg^l } E. Lock

Which nominations were unanimously agreed upon or to. On motion of Mr Stevens the Secretary was instructed to furnish the committees (Edway Sect & Question) each with a list of the names of the members of this society. The Question com^t then reported the following questions for the two succeeding meetings 1st Which is best adapted to excite the admiration of the human mind the works of nature or the works of art. Disputants A. Stevens & G. Ward. on the aff^t G. M. Blaney & Mr E. Lock on the negative. 2^d Will the character of the American people be affected unfavorably by the late derangement in the commercial relations of this country.

Disputants A. & Strong & Keating on the Aff^t. J. M. Kinn & J. M. Buffum neg. On motion Mr Clark resolved that a tax on one dollar be assessed upon each member of the Society and the Treasurer is hereby ordered to collect the same and report on the Third Friday in Nov. On motion of J. M. Kinn Edg. the following was added to the above that any member who shall neglect to pay said assessments shall loose his membership. On motion Mr Kinn resolved that the thanks of this Society be tendered to J. M. Buffum for the able & dignified manner in which he has discharged the duties of President for the last year. A. & Strong & Bigelow Edg^ls were proposed for admission into the Society. On motion adjourned to meet at the new court room on next Friday evening. Nelson G. Edwards Sec^t

Friday evening Nov 2^d 1838

The Society met pursuant to adjournment. The Pres^t & Sec^t being absent Mr Ervolf was called to the chair. The minutes of previous meeting read & approved. R. A. Whetstone & Col A. Botkin were proposed as members of the Society. A. & Strong & Mr Bigelow were continued as candidates for admission until the next meeting. No report from any of the standing committees. On motion Mr Buffum (their being but few present) any gentlemen present were invited to participate in the discussion. No one responsible for the dispute upon the aff^t. The chair appointed J. M. Buffum and R. A. Whetstone to fill their places as substituted. The Society then went into the discussion of the question proposed at last meeting which was opened by J. M. Buffum off and A. Stevens on the neg when after a short but animated debate it was discovered that a number sufficient to form a quorum were not in attendance and the Society

compelled to let ^{the subject} rest without a decision

The Socy then announced the two following questions for the two succeeding meetings. 1st "Will the character of the American people be affected unfavorably by the late derangement in the commercial relations of their country?" Disputants A. D. Strong & E. Keating vs J. M. Krum & J. W. Buffum. 2d "Which ^{has exerted & still continues to exert} the greatest influence in the world wealth or talent?" Disputants E. Cook & R. A. Whetstone vs Nelson Edwards & J. R. Bullock. On motion the Society adjourned to meet again on Friday evening next.

Nelson G. Edwards Secy

The Society met Friday evening Nov 9th 1838 in accordance with the constitution. The Vice Pres. took the chair and called the meeting to order. The minutes of the preceding meeting read and approved. It being in order the Lecture committee reported that they had ^{not} been able to procure a lecturer but would do so as soon as possible. The question committee reported the following question for the second succeeding meeting. "Ought the act establishing the Internal Improvement system of the State of Illinois passed Feb 27th 1837 to be repealed?" Disputants Geo B Arnold vs Stephen G. Glegg. Stephen G. Glegg Negative.

Messrs Strong, Bigelow, Bothin & Whetstone were admitted as members of the Society. A communication was received from Mr Greeley declining to serve upon the committee of ways and means, ~~then~~ ^{resignation} which was accepted by the Society whereupon J. W. Buffum Esq. was chosen as substitute. The Society then went into a committee of the whole (J. M. Krum in the chair) to discuss the question proposed at ^{the} last evening

which was opened by Geo B Arnold on the Aff and J. M. Krum Esq. upon the negative and after an animated and interesting debate in which several members of the Society participated.

The committee rose and reported that the question had been discussed which report was accepted. The question was then decided by a vote of the Society in the Affirmative. The following question was then announced for discussion at the next meeting "Which has exerted and still continues to exert the greatest influence in the world wealth or talent?" Disputants E. Cook & R. A. Whetstone vs Nelson Edwards & J. R. Bullock Negative.

The Society then adjourned to meet at the New Court room on Friday evening Nov 16th 1838.
Nelson G. Edwards

The Society met at the Recorder's office Nov 16th 1838. The Pres & Vice Pres being absent the meeting was called to order by the Secretary when on motion of Mr Ward J. W. Buffum Esq. took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were then read and approved. The committees being called on to report. The essay committee reported that no communications had been received by them. The question committee reported the two following ~~member~~ questions with disputants for the second and third succeeding meetings. 1st "Which is best adapted to elicit the admiration of the human mind, the works of Nature or the works of Art?" Disputants J. W. Buffum & W. E. Cook upon the Aff & A. Stevens & J. Ward upon the Negative. 2d "Was Brutus justifiable in killing Caesar?" Disputants J. W. Chickering vs A. Bothin Affirmative.

Effingham Cook & A Whetstone Negative
No report from any of the other Standing Comm-
= ittees. It being in order Messrs ^{Wm} Hamkinson and
A S Brownly were proposed as members of Society

The Society then went into a committee
of the whole (Dr Geo Heaton in the chair) to discuss
the following question "Which has exerted and
still continues to exert the greater influence in
the world at large wealth or talents?" Which was
opened by Mr Buffum in the aff and Edwards
on the negative and after a lengthy and spirit-
= ed debate in which several members participa-
= ted a motion was made that the committee
do rise which being agreed too the committee
rose and reported that the question had
been discussed and now referred it back to
the house for final decision which report was
accepted. The question was then decided
by a vote of the Society in the negative

The following question was then announced by
the Secretary for discussion at the next meeting

"Ought the act establishing the Internal Improv-
= ement System of the State of Illinois passed
February 2nd 1837 to be repealed" Supporters
J. H. Kennedy & Geo B Arnold upon the aff
and Edward Keating & Stephen Grigg upon
the negative. The Society then adjourned

Attest G Edwards

The Society met pursuant to adjournment
Friday evening Nov 23rd 1838. The Pres took the
Chair and called the meeting to order

The minutes of the last meeting were read
and approved

It being in order the Essay Committee reported
that no communication had been received
by them No report from any other Standing
Committee. A communication was received
from a member of the ^{Society} pressing the claims of edu-
= cation upon the Society urging them to take
some step to call the attention of the app-
= roaching Legislature to this subject and
proposing that a copy of the lecture delivered
by Dr Edwards Esq upon the subject of com-
= mon schools during the last Session of the
Lyceum be procured and published

Which communication was on motion of
Geo W Olney Esq referred to the committee
upon questions directing them to take whatever
step ~~upon~~ which might appear ^{to them} best

Messrs Hamkinson & Brownly were then ~~at~~
admitted as members of the Society

The Society then went into a committee
of the whole (G L Ward in the Chair) to discuss
the following question "Ought the act establi-
= shing the Internal Improvement System of
the State of Illinois passed February 2nd 1837
to be repealed" which was opened by Mr Ke-
= nedy upon the aff & G W Olney upon the
neg and after an interesting debate in which
several persons participated ^{upon} ~~upon~~ motion was
made that the committee ~~do~~ and reported
that the question had been discussed which
was accepted. The question was then deci-
= ded by a vote of the Society in the aff The
Sect then announced the following question
for discussion at next meeting, "Which
= is best adapted to elicit the admira-
= tion of the human mind the works of nature

or the works of art. Disputants J W Buffum
& Wm E Cook upon the aff G L Ward & A Ste-
= vend upon the negative. On motion The Society
adjourned Nelson & Edwards Sec.

Dec 7th 1838 The Society met in accordance
with the constitution. The meeting being called to
order by the Pres the minutes of the last meeting were
read and approved. Essay committee then reported that
no communications had been received by them.
Lecture comtee reported that Mr Stevens will continue
his lecture upon the fall of Poland at the next m-
= eting. The question Committee reported that following
question & disputants for the second succeeding meet-
= ing Was it good policy in the legislature of the
State to postpone the erection of a college or
university and to apply its funds to the establishment
of common schools. A motion was made that a
Committee be appointed to confer with the mechanics
Institute upon the subject of being incorporated
with this Society. When a second motion was made
that a committee of three be appointed by the Chair.
which motion being carried the chair appointed
G L Ward J H Kennedy & R A Whetstone as that comm-
= ittee. J I Stone & Col J B Humbley were proposed
as members of this Society. A very interesting and able
Lecture was then delivered by A Steved Esq
upon the "Fall of Poland" which was listened to with
deep interest by the meeting. The Society then went
into a Committee of the whole (Mr A Keef in the
= chair) to discuss the following question "Which is best
= adapted to elicit the admiration the human mind the works
of nature or the works of art?" Which was opened by
E Cook upon the aff & A Stevens neg and after

a lengthy and spirited discussion in which several
persons participated a motion was made that
the committee rise and report which being carried
= ed the Com rose and reported that the question had
been discussed and now referred it back to the Society
for decision when the question was decided by a vote of the
Society in the negative. A motion was then made that
the order of the meeting be taken upon this subject or
question when it was again decided in the neg-
= ative. The Sect then announced the following question
for discussion at next meeting "Was Brutus justifi-
= iable in killing Caesar" Disputants A Babbitt & Ed-
= wards upon the afft Eppingham Cook & R A Whetstone
negative. The Society then adjourned
Nelson & Edwards Sec.

The Society met Friday evening Dec 14th in
accordance with the constitution. The meeting
being called to order by the Pres the minutes
of last meeting were read and approved.
to report from any standing committees.
Col John B Humbley was then and Mr J I Stone
were then received as members of the Society - they
having before proposed. Mr G T Brown was proposed
as a member of the Society. A Lecture was then
delivered by A Steved Esq upon the "Fall of Poland"
which was listened to with interest and attention
by the meeting. The Society then went into a com-
= mittee of the whole (Dr Geo Heaton in the chair) to dis-
= cuss the following question "Was Brutus justifiable
in killing Caesar" which elicited a warm discussion
in which several members of the Society participated.
The Com upon motion of Mr Buffum rose and
reported that the question had been discussed

and now referred it back to the house for a final decision. The question was then decided by a vote of the Society ~~was~~ in the negative. The following question & disputants was then announced. ^{Was it} ^{sound} policy in the legislation of the State to postpone the erection of a university and apply its funds to the establishment of Common Schools? & Treating A. P. Strong upon the afft & J. Brownly & M. A. Steef upon the negt. The Society then adjourned. Nelson & Edwards

Society met pursuant to adjournment Dec 21st 1838. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Lecture Committee reported that Mr. Kim will deliver a lecture at the next meeting. The Question Committee proposed the following question & disputants at next meeting. "Is it right for Courts of justice to exclude the testimony of a wit-ness on the ground that such wit-ness does not believe in future reward or punishment?" Disputants, A. P. Strong & J. P. Clark afft J. M. Kim & C. F. Fingham Doct. Negative. No report from any other standing committees. Mr. Kennedy late acting treasurer tendered his resignation of said office which was accepted. Upon motion Col. Roblin J. W. Buffum Esq. was chosen to fill the vacancy occasioned by the above mentioned resignation.

Mr. G. J. Brown having been proposed, was received as a member of the Society. Messrs. A. Hope & W. G. Edwards were then proposed for admission. Mr. Ward then offered the following resolutions which was adopted by the Society.

Resolved that a com^t of three be appointed by the Chair to take into consideration the expediency & practicability of procuring a library and at the 2^d succeeding meeting whereupon the Chair appointed the following persons as that Committee G. L. Ward, Mr. Bigelow & J. W. Buffum. Mr. Whetstone from the Com^t appointed to take into consideration the subject or question of being in this Society & the "Mechanical Institute" being incorporated with each other reported that the Com^t had had the matter under consideration and would ~~now~~ report favorably to the object. But ~~that~~ as chairman of the committee appt by the "M. I." he would withdraw the proposition made him heretofore upon the ground that he considered the resolution just offered as showing a want of respect for the said Institute. A Lecture was then delivered by "A. Stevens Esq" upon the "Fall of Poland" (it being the last of his course of lectures upon that subject) which was listened to with deep interest and attention by a crowded house. The Society then went into a committee of the whole (J. A. Remondin in the Chair) to discuss the following question ~~it was~~ it sound policy in the legislation of the State to postpone the erection of a university - and apply its funds to the establishment of Common Schools" which was opened by Mr. Buffum upon the afft & J. Brownly upon the neg and after a discussion of some length the Committee (upon motion) rose & reported that the question had been discussed and now referred it back to the house for a final decision which report was accepted. The question was

decided by a vote of the Society in the aff-

The following resolution was then introduced by Mr Buffam. Resolved that the audience be requested to abstain from all loud applause such as stamping &c &c and that the Chairman read aloud this resolution at the commencement of every debate, which was adopted by the Society. On motion the Society then adjourned. Nelson & Edwards

(Sect)

Dec 28th 1838. The Society met in accordance with the Constitution. The Pres^t being absent the V. Pres^t took the chair and called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting being read were approved. Lecture Committee reported that they had not yet obtained a lecturer for next meeting. Essay Committee reported that no essays had been received by them. No report from any other standing committees. Messrs A. Wolfe & W. G. Edwards were received as members of the Society. A lecture was then delivered by J. M. Hunt Esq upon the "Origin & Progress of Poetry" which was listened to with attention by the meeting. The house then went into a committee off the whole, ^(Mr Hunt in the Chair) to discuss the following question proposed at last meeting: ~~whether~~ after an interesting discussion in which several persons participated, upon motion the committee rose and reported that the question had been discussed and now referred it back to the house for a final decision when it was decided in the negative.

The following questions were then announced for discussion at the 1st & 2^d succeeding meetings.
1st "Should the community indemnify citizens for property destroyed by mobs?" Disputants O. M. Adams & W. G. Lincoln off. A. A. West & Col. Botkin neg. - 2^d "Do the signs of the times indicate the perpetuity of our present form of government?" Disputants Mr Bigelow & Dr Brooks off. J. R. Bullock & J. W. Chickering neg.
The Society then adjourned. Nelson & Edwards Sec

January 1st 1838 The Society met pursuant to adjournment. The Pres^t & Vice Pres^t being absent the house was called to order by Mr A. Neef Esq. Minutes were then read and approved. The Essay Committee reported that their hands were as empty as usual. No report from any other standing committees. The committee appointed Dec 21st to take into consideration the "expediency and practicability" of establishing a library and report at the second succeeding meeting (this evening) made a lengthy report through their Chairman (Mr Ward) in favor of the object submitted for their consideration which was on motion of Mr Whetstone it was laid on the table for one week. A very eloquent and interesting lecture was then delivered by R. A. Whetstone Esq upon the subject "The Aborigines of this Country" which was listened to with interest and attention by a crowded house. The house then went into a committee of the whole to discuss the following question (Mr Ward in the Chair) "Do the signs of

of the times predicate the perpetuity of our
government" which was opened by Mr
Arnold upon the Afft and Edward Keating
Ag upon the negative and after a lengthy debate
a motion was made that the Committee
rise and report progress and ask leave
to sit again, which motion being carried
the Committee in accordance ^{with the motion} rose and reported
which ~~the motion~~ was accepted by the house
when ^{an interesting} debate arose upon the question whether
or not when the house (when the committee ^{made} the above
request to be permitted to sit again) accepted the
report of the committee they at the same time
granted them their ~~request~~ request which was
decided in the negative by the Chair and
and the question was then put to the house
whether the committee should be allowed
to sit again which was carried in
the Afft. On motion the Society
adjourned

Jan 11th 1839 The Society met
pursuant to adjournment. The Pres-
and vice Pres being absent Mr. Buff-
-um ^{was} called to the chair. ~~and~~ and
then called the meeting to order. The Sec-
being absent A. J. Brownly was appointed
Secretary "pro tem". It being in order the ~~lecture~~
Edy Committee reported that they had they
had not received any communication
No report from any other of the standing
Committee. On motion of Mr. Thoms

The report of the Library Committee
was called up and then upon Sugg-
-esting of the Chair the same Gentlemen
moved that any action upon the same
be postponed until the next meet-
-ing. The Society agreed to it.

The house then went into committee
of the whole to discuss the question
continued to this meeting which was
opened by Mr. Arnold upon the Afft-
and E Keating upon the negative
when after a lengthy discussion in which
Messrs Kimball, Clark Buffum & Clin-
-g participated upon motion the
Committee reported that the question
had been discussed and now re-
-ported ~~to~~ that the question had ~~been~~
-orted back to the house for final decid-
-ion when it was decided in the Aff-

The Sect then announced the follow-
-ing questions & disputants for the next
meeting. Ought the community
to ~~indecipher~~ ^{be} ~~persecuted~~ ^{persecuted} for property
destroyed by "mob" disputants
Q M Adams + H J Lincoln off
Col Botkin + H H Westney

The meeting then adjourned
Sect Pro Tem

A. Scott Moderator

Atton Jan 18 1839.

The Society met in accordance with the constitution. The Past & Vice Past being absent the meeting was called to order by the Secretary when on motion of Mr Whetstone Mr Stevens was called to the chair. The proceedings of last evening were then read and approved. Lecture Committee reported that a Lecture will be delivered by the Rev Mr Bledsoe at the next meeting. No report from any other of the Standing Committees. On motion of Mr Brown the report of the "Library Committee" was called up and again laid on the table for one week. The house then went into a committee of the whole (Mr G. Heaton in the chair) to discuss the following questions "Ought the community to indemnify persons for property destroyed by mobs" which after a lengthy discussion was on motion referred by the committee to the house for final decision when it was decided almost unanimously in the aff.

The following question & Disputants was then announced for debate the next meeting "Ought the right of suffrage to be extended to the female sex" Disputants J. Gigg & J. Hope afft. A Stevens & Mr Whetstone negative. Upon motion of Mr Neef the Lecture Committee were requested to procure a copy of the Lecture lately delivered by Mr Whetstone upon the "Aborigines of this country" and publish the same in the papers of this City.

The Society then adjourned
Attest G Edwards Secy

The Society met Friday evening Jan 25th 1839 the meeting being called to order by the Vice Past the proceedings of last meeting were read and on motion approved. It being in order the Lecture Committee reported that Mr John Clark will deliver a lecture on the next evening. Question Committee reported the following questions for discussion at the first and second succeeding meetings
1st "Ought imprisonment for debt to be abolished" Disputants Mr Diglow & Willis G Edwards afft; Dr Geo Heaton and George J Brown Esq Negative
2^d "Ought a representative to be bound by the known (the expressed) wish of his constituents" Disputants B K Hart Scorsen Cobbing Esq afft; O J Brigham Esq and J. J. Stone Negative. No report from any other Standing Committees. On motion of Mr Brown the report of the Library Committee (appointed Dec 21st 1838) be laid on the table & indefinitely postponed.

Mr Whetstone then renewed the proposition formerly made by the Mechanics Institute to incorporate that institution with this ~~Society~~ ("The Atton Lit Society") and moved that a Committee be appointed again by the Chair to take that subject under consideration and report at next meeting whereupon the Chair afft. R A. Whetstone Dr Brooks & Coffinham took that Committee

Joseph Gordon & Mrs Trumbull were then proposed as members of the Society. Mr Bledsoe was proposed at the previous meeting but the Secretary neglected to note it. Previous to going in to business for the evening a Lecture was delivered by The Rev A J Bledsoe upon "The Human Organism Scientiarum of Lord Bacon's Philosophy" which was listened to with attention by a crowded house.

The house went in to vote in to a Committee of the whole (Mr Clark in the chair) to discuss the following question "Ugtht the right of Suffrage to be extended to the female sex" which was opened by A Hope on the afft A J Brownly upon negative and after a lengthy discussion in which several members participated, The Committee rose (in motion) and reported that the question had been discussed and now referred it back to the house for the further action of the same, where the question was decided by a vote of the Society in the negative. On motion the house then adjourned. Nelson & Edwards Sec

February 1st 1839

The Society pursuant to adjournment The Pres & Vice Pres being absent the meeting was called to order by the Secretary when Mr Arnold was called to the Chair and the minutes of last evening read and approved. The report of the Lecture Committee (That Mr Bullock will lecture next meeting) was then

handed in. No report from any of the other Standing Committees, Rev A J Bledsoe Soc. Joseph Gordon Esq & Mrs Trumbull having been before proposed were admitted as members of the Society. The report of the Committee appointed to confer with the Mechanics Institute was deferred until the next meeting. On motion the Society adjourned to meet again on Monday evening Nelson & Edwards Sec

Monday February 4th 1839

The Society pursuant to adjournment. The Pres & Vice Pres being absent Mr Buffum on motion was called to the Chair who called the meeting to order when the proceedings of last meeting were read and approved. It being order the question Committee reported the following questions and Disputants for the 3 succeeding meetings. 1st "Ugtht a representative always to be bound by the known will of his constituents" Disputants B. R. Hart & Samuel Robbins afft J. J. Welch or J. J. Brigham & J. Stone negative. 2d "Which has the greatest tendency to demoralize mankind: prosperity or adversity" Disputants J. R. Bullock & Wm Hankinson Esq afft Geo E Arnold & Wm E Cook Esq negative. 3rd "Ugtht the right of suffrage to be extended to un-naturalized foreigners" Disputants J. M. Buffum & J. M. Trumbull afft Edward Bea-ting Alfred Stevens negative. No report from any of the other Standing Committees.

It being in order the following resolution was offered and passed, or adopted, or resolved
That a Committee of three be appointed by the Chair to wait on the Treasurer and request a report of the Condition of the Treasury and report at next meeting, whereupon the Chair appointed Messrs Stevens, Edwards, & Brownlee as that Committee. Mr Arnold then made a motion that the question Committee be instructed to present their questions hereafter in the form of Resolutions which after some remarks from different members was lost. A very interesting and spirited lecture was then delivered by J. S. Clark upon "Love of Country or Patriotism" which was listened to with interest and attention by the Society. A motion was then made by Mr Stevens that a Committee of 3 be appointed by the Chair to procure a ^{copy of the} lecture just delivered and publish the same in the papers of this City when the Chair appointed Messrs Stevens Arnold & Stone as that Committee.

The house then went into a committee of the whole (Mr Stone in the Chair) to discuss the following question "Debt imprisonment for debt to be abolished" which after some discussion was on motion reported to the house by the Committee to the house for final decision when it was decided by a vote of the Society in the affirmative on motions the Society adjourned
Messrs & Edwards Sec pro tem

Friday Feb 8th 1834
The Society met and upon the arrival of the usual hour was called to order by the President where on motion of Mr Brownlee it was agreed that, owing to the inclemency of the evening, and the consequent absence of a large number of the members, the regular business be postponed until Friday next.

A Communication was rec^d from a Committee of the Franklin Society of this City proposing an union of the two institutions under a new organization & form of Government. Whereupon a Committee consisting of Messrs Armin Stephens & Edwards was appointed to confer with the Representatives of the Franklin Society and in case they deemed such Union desirable to draft a Constitution & By laws, with power to call a joint meeting of the two Societies for the adoption of the same.

On Motion of Mr Brownlee the Committee last appointed, be instructed to take into consideration the expediency of engraving into S^d Constitution & laws provisions for the establishment of a library.
On Motion the Society adjourned

Edw Puffer Sec pro tem

Attn Feb 15th 1839

The Society met as usual and was called to order by the Pres. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A report from one of the Standing Committees. It being in order a member announced that J. H. Chickering will lecture so soon as an opportunity is offered. Mr. Stevens having declined serving upon the committee appointed Feb 8th to meet a committee (for a certain purpose) from the "Franklin Society" & look Esq. was on motion substituted in his stead. The following report was then submitted by the Treasurer in accordance with a resolution passed Feb 4th.

Recd of Mr Kennedy former Treasurer	17.00
" of Col Bokum Treas	1.00
Con for Nat Fed J. H. Robbins for coal	8.00
For J. C. Virgin advertising	5.00
Bal in Treasurer's hands	8.00
	<u>\$35.00</u>

Outstanding for Tapes Vindication Feb 1835, 00 part of which cannot be collected owing to absence of members. The rest will soon be collected and in the hands of the Treasurer - J. H. Buffum Treasurer

Which report was on motion accepted. The House then went into a committee of the whole, to discuss the following question: "ought a representative always to be bound by the known will of his constituents" which after some discussion was on motion referred by the Committee to the house for final decision when it was decided

in the negative. The following question was then announced for discussion at next meeting. "Which has the greatest tendency to demoralize ^{prosperity or adversity} mankind?" The Disputants J. M. ~~Ames~~ ^{Ames} & Mr. Hanks - In Opp Geo E Arnold & E. C. Cook Reg. The Society then adjourned. Nelson & Edward Secy.

Attn Feb 22^d 1839

The Society met as usual of late without many in attendance. The Pres & V Pres being absent Dr B. K. Hart was called to the chair and A. Stevens appointed Secy Pro Tem. The minutes of last meeting were then read and approved. No report from any Standing Committee. On motion the Society adjourned to meet again on Friday evening March 1st 1839, A. Stevens Secy Pro Tem.

The following question was announced for the next meeting "Which has the greatest tendency to demoralize mankind prosperity or adversity?" Disputants J. M. Ames & Mr. Hanks In Opp Geo E Arnold and A. C. Cook Reg. Alfred Stevens Secy Pro Tem.

Is it exp^t to make poor
by Leg^y or otherwise for the Support
or Maintenance of Paupers

Attn March 1st 1839

The Society met pursuant to notice
The President and Vice President being
absent Dr Geo Heath was called to
the Chair and called the meeting to order
The Secretary not being present with the
minutes of the last meeting the order of ex-
=ises ~~was~~^{being} dispensed with Mr Bullock
proceeded to deliver his Lecture which
was listened to with deep interest and
attention and received with marked appro-
=bation by the meeting - The minutes of the last
evening being now on the Table were read and
on motion approved - It being in order
the Lecture Committee reported through the
Secretary that Mr Arnold will lecture at
the next meeting of the Society - The question
Committee reported the following questions
and Disputants for the debate at the 1st
succeeding meeting "Ought the right of suffr-
=age to be extended to unaturalized foreign-
=ers" Disputants J. N. Buffum & J. M. Kimball
afft. E. Keating & J. Stevens neg. An attempt
was then made to go into the discussion
of the question previously submitted but no
one appearing to take part in the debate
a vote was taken upon the question as it
then stood when it was decided in the
afft - On motion the Society then
adjourned to meet Friday March 8th 1839
Nelson G Edwards Secy

Atton March 8th 1838

The Society met pursuant to adjournment - The meeting was called to order by the Pastor on motion the order of exercises was dispensed with and Mr Arnold proceeded to deliver his lecture which was listened to with attention by the meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were then read and approved - It being in order the Lecture Committee reported that a lecture will be delivered on the next evening - The question Committee reported the following question and disputants for the next debate, "Whose Character is to be most admired Washington or Bonaparte" Disputants Geo W Wiley & J. S. Clark oppos A Thomas & Horatio Bigelow neg^l - No report from any other standing committees - The house then went into a

Committee of the whole (Mr Robbins in the chair) to discuss the following question substituted in the place of the one reported at the last meeting, "Is it expedient to provide by legislation for the support ~~and~~ maintenance of paupers" which after a lengthy discussion was on motion referred by the Committee to the house for final decision when it was decided in the negative - On motion the Society then adjourned Nelson G Edwards Sec^y

The meeting was called to order by Dr Wood & his motion Dr H Hart was called to the Chair & Geo S Noma chosen Secretary

Mr Ed Keating made a few remarks briefly stating the object of the meeting & moved that a Com. be appointed to nominate officers by consent Mr Ke. withdrew his motion & offered the following motion that we resolve ourselves into a society ^{calculated} separate & distinct from the Allen Literary Society & the Franklin Society - Carried

Then moved that a Committee be appointed to report a Constitution at the next meeting on motion of Dr Woods - The Constitution of the old Society was taken up & after amendments adopted - Resolved that those who are present wishing to become members of the newly organized Society shall sign the Constitution & pay in 50c.

Moved that we now proceed to the election of officers -

Dr. Keating - Pres - Dr. Woods V. P.
N. G. Edwards Sec - W. C. Cook Treas^r
On Motion a Com^{tee} of 3 men were appointed - consisting of 3 men - Mr Davis, Keating & Robbins - On Motion - a Com^{tee} of 3 men appointed - Noma, Noma & Stone -

Messrs John. M. Rives and B. M. Eaton - Alton Ill.

Washington 18 Jan'y 1838

Gentlemen

The practice in the House of Representatives of the United States allows of the form of adopting resolutions, suggested in your letter - It often happens that a series of resolutions, are offered in committee of the whole, upon each of which a separate vote is taken - Some are adopted, and some rejected - The motion then is that the committee rise and report the adopted Resolutions, without noticing those that have been rejected, which may however be again moved in the House - If a single Resolution is under consideration of the committee of the whole, it is usual after it has been fully debated to move that the committee rise and report the Resolution, without taking in committee a question upon the Resolution itself, separate from that implied in the motion to report it - But this is mere usage to save the time and trouble of taking one question twice over - The motion to adopt a Resolution is implied in the motion to report it - and if adopted it is the duty of the Chairman to report it - when the committee rise, whether the question to report has been taken or not.

This case has occurred during the present session of Congress. A series of Resolutions passing out of the general subjects noticed in the annual Messages of the President of the United States to various Committees, was offered to the Committee of the whole House, on the State of the Union.

It was agreed to take separate questions on each of the resolutions offered. The first and second were adopted. on the third debate arose, till it was moved that the Committee do rise. The committee rose accordingly and the Chairman reported that the Committee had had under consideration sundry Resolutions, having reference to the President's Message two of which Resolutions they had adopted and had left the rest still under consideration. The Chairman had no order from the Committee to report the adopted Resolutions; but he reported them of course, because they had been adopted. The Speaker received the report, and the House immediately adopted the reported Resolutions. Perhaps in strictness to the Motion for the Committee to rise. Should have been added, "and report the adopted Resolutions." But in the order to rise that of Reporting what had been done was implied as a part of the Chairman's duty.

I am with much respect, Gentlemen
Your obed^t Serv^t

J. D. Adams

Members admitted

Then into an old member admitted —

Lecture Committee & then report

Members that the Sec. be requested to give
names of new members who have not paid their
admission fees to the Treas & be collect

Lecture

Lecture

Report of Question Committee & Questions
with Mr. Adams

Read the Questions

~~the~~ Geo. H. Adams in the Chair

Discussion on Adams aff
Edwards Negative

Motion the Committee rose & Reported

Question — decided in the Aff

On the motion

Whose character is to be most
admired Washington or Bonaparte?
G. H. Oliver & A. Stevens &
~~Edwards~~ H. Bigelow Negative
Clark

A. A. Nelson

E. E.

Nelson & Edwards

The Pathetic appeal of S. E. Clement

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